

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3464

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE

SUBJ: NEW YEMENI GOVERNMENT PRESENTS PROGRAM TO
PARLIAMENT

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: SANAA 460

1. NEW YARG PRIMIN, DR. HASAN MAKKI, PRESENTED
TRADITIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR HIS NEW GOVERNMENT
MARCH 19 TO CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY. STATEMENT WAS
SOBER AND UNDRAMATIC, CONCENTRATING LARGELY ON YARS
FIRST THREE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (DOLS 18.5 MILLION)
WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY SHORTLY.
FOCUS OF THIS PART OF STATEMENT WAS CONCERN FOR INDIVI-
DUAL YEMENI CITIZEN WHO FACES POVERTY AND INFLATION
AND WHO WANTS RESULTS, NOT ELABORATE PLANS AND PUBLIC
PRONOUNCEMENTS.

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2. IN LAST PORTION OF STATEMENT MAKKI OUTLINED

POLITICAL APPROACH OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE REAFFIRMED RATHER ROUTINELY ITS INTEREST IN UNITY OF HISTORICAL YEMEN AND ITS SUPPORT FOR ARAB UNITY. REGIONAL POLICY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON ARAB LEAGUE CHARTER AND ISLAMIC AND ARAB SOLIDARITY. MAKKI PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON BROTHERLY TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA, TO WHICH HE THEN ADDED KUWAIT AND GULF STATES. ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL YEMEN'S POLICIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON POSITIVE NEUTRALITY, NON-ALIGNMENT, AND UN CHARTER. YARG WOULD COOPERATE WITH ANY COUNTRY WHICH EXTENDED HAND OF FRIENDSHIP AND HELPED IN YEMEN'S DEVELOPMENT.

3. IN ACCORDANCE NORMAL PROCEDURE, ASSEMBLY AND NEW GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY FORMED JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY STATEMENT PRIOR TO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WHICH EXPECTED WITHIN 2-3 DAYS. ASSEMBLY MEMBERS NOMINATED TO COMMUNICATE ARE NOTABLY FAVORABLE TO MAKKI.

4. COMMENT: MERE FACT THAT POLICY STATEMENT PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY IS CLEAR INDICATION THAT OPPOSITION TO NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONTAINED BACKSTAGE IN RECENT FREQUENT MEETINGS PRESIDENT IRYANI HAS HAD WITH ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SHAIKH ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR AND HODEIDA GOVERNOR SINAN ABU LUHUM. (THIS ASSUMPTION CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR BY FONMIN ASNAG MARCH 20.) GOVERNMENT IS GAINING FAVORABLE IMAGE WITH PUBLIC THROUGH INCLUSION MORE YOUNG TECHNOCRATS THAN IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND BY WELL PUBLICIZED CAMPAIGN LED BY MIN SUPPLY MUSLIH TO CRACK DOWN ON MERCHANTS ACCUSED OF MANIPULATION OF COMMODITIES AND PRICE-GOUGING IN FACE SERIOUS INFLATION (EVEN THOUGH MOST OBSERVERS DOUBT CAMPAIGN WILL BE VERY EFFECTIVE).

5. SAG ATTITUDE TOWARDS MAKKI REMAINS PROBLEMATIC. SAG HAS WITH APPARENT DELIBERATENESS WITHHELD REGULAR QUARTERLY BUDGET SUPPORT PAYMENT (APPROXIMATELY DOLS 4 MILLION) DUE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. ON MARCH 20, REPUBLICAN COUNCIL MEMBER AHMAD NU'MAN WROTE SUADI PRINCE FAHD A DIPLOMATICALLY WORDED CONFIDENTIAL

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LETTER TO POINT OUT THAT CONTINUED SAG WITHHOLDING WOULD NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO STEADILY CLOSER RELATIONS YARG AND ITS NEW PRIMIN SEEKING BUILD WITH ITS NEIGHBOR; WERE NEWS OF NON-PAYMENT TO GET INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN MANY YEMENIS MIGHT CONSTRUE SAUDI ACTION AS ATTEMPT INFLUENCE YAR INTERNAL POLITICS. CRAWFORD

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